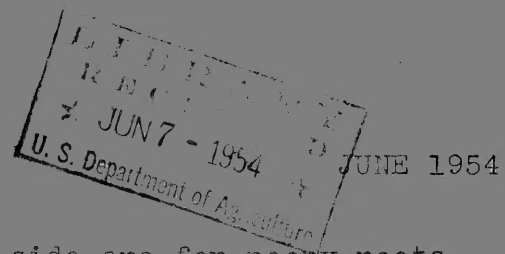


DEAR FRIEND:



The prices on the back side are for peony roots for fall planting; shipping will start about September 10th and thru October. Stocks of some varieties are limited, therefore would appreciate orders to be placed as early as possible as some varieties will sell out early.

Most of my mail order customers are readers of farm papers or members of the American Peony Society, so am not afraid to book your order without any deposit or remittance nor C O D. Just place your order and you will be billed for them after they are shipped for your approval. Then if you are satisfied, you remit the amount due and if not satisfied, then return roots and your postage will be refunded. Can not guarantee the growing results but do guarantee them to be true to variety.

Grow nearly two hundred different varieties and wish to cut down on this number as it entails too much record keeping. They are in color shades from white to rose (sorry, but no reds). You name the color desired and the price on named varieties of my choice will be 75¢ each and the un-named varieties will be 50¢ each. All labelled standard three to five eye divisions. And for those who would like to save some money by growing them an extra year, am offering one to two eye divisions at one-half the regular price of the standard division. We plant these small divisions ourselves in order to increase our stocks. There will be an initial 50¢ packing and shipping charge on all orders, that way there will be no minimum size on orders accepted.

Most of my business is local, especially from people that see these peonies in bloom, so that they can choose the kind that they prefer, do not issue a descriptive catalogue nor do we push the mail order business, but do depend on satisfied customers that tell their friends. Do not claim to raise the best in the world, but do our best to try to put out a good package at a fair price.

Sincerely yours,

Herman Meyer

MEYER'S PEONY GARDENS
ROUTE 1, BOX 39-A
HOMEWOOD, ILLINOIS

NAME	RATING	COLOR	TYPE	SEASON	PRICE
A B C NICHOLLS	9.45	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	\$2.00
BLUSHING BEAUTY	8.92	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
CHARLES NIEDELL		WHITE	SINGLE	EARLY	1.00
CHARLOT		PINK	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	2.00
DEEDIE MAY		PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
DIANA		WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
DUCHESS DE NEMOURS	8.10	WHITE	DOUBLE	EARLY	1.00
E C SHAW	9.10	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
EDITH SCOVELL		PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
EGLANTINE		LIGHT PINK	SINGLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
E J SHAYLOR	8.70	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
ELLA CHRISTIANSON	8.84	ROSE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
EVELYN		Loose PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
F LOWRET OF EDEN		LOOSE PALE PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
GEORGIA MONTAGUE		PINK SEMI	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
FRANKIE CURTISS	9.30	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
GEORGIANA SHAYLOR	8.90	PINK	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
GEO. W PEYTON	9.43	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
GRACE BATSON	8.84	PINK	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
HANSINA BRAND	9.04	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
HERMIONE	8.80	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
JUDGE BERRY	8.60	PINK	DOUBLE	EARLY	1.00
KATHERINE HAVMEYER	8.80	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
KELWAY'S QUEEN	8.80	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
LADY A. DUFF	9.10	PINK SEMI	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
LA FEE		PINK	DOUBLE	EARLY	1.00
LA LORRAINE	9.17	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
LAVERNE CHRISTMAN	8.83	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
LE CYGNE	9.42	WHITE	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	2.00
LILLIAN GUMM	8.95	PINK	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
LOUIS JOLIET	9.00	DWARF RED	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
LUETTA PFEIFFER		WHITE SEMI	DOUBLE	EARLY	1.00
MARIETTA SISSON	9.02	PINK	DOUBLE	EARLY	1.00
MABELL FRANKLIN	9.00	LIGHT ROSE	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
MIGNON		LIGHT PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
MME ESCARY		WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
MME EMILE LEMOINE		WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
MONS JULES DESSERT	9.40	LIGHT PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
MRS A M BRAND	9.04	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
MRS FRANK BEACH	8.95	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
MRS J H NEELY	9.22	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
NANCY DOLMAN	8.92	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
NINON	8.86	WHITE SEMI	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
NIPPON GOLD	9.02	PINK	JAP	MIDSEASON	1.00
NOONDAY		DARK PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
PHYLISS KELWAY	9.00	DARK ROSE	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
PRES COOLIDGE	8.90	PINK	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
PRES WILSON	9.30	PINK	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
RAOUL DESSERT	9.00	ROSE	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
RIENE BARONET		PINK SEMI	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
ROSE SHAYLOR	9.10	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
SARAH BERNHARDT	9.00	PINK	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
SHAYLOR'S DREAM		WHITE	DOUBLE	EARLY	2.00
SNOW WHITE		WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	2.00
SOLANGE	9.27	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
TOURANGELLE	9.40	WHITE	DOUBLE	LATE	1.00
WALTER FAXON	9.30	PINK	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00
WHITE DELIGHT		WHITE	DOUBLE	EARLY	2.00
WM F TURNER	8.40	DARK RED	DOUBLE	MIDSEASON	1.00

ABOVE PRICES ARE FOR STANDARD 3 TO 5 EYE DIVISIONS. 1954
MEYER'S PEONY GARDENS, RT 1, BOX 39-A, HOMEWOOD, ILLINOIS.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering
Beltsville, Maryland

CULTURE OF PEONIES

The peony is a very adaptable plant, hardy even in the Northern Plains States and Canada. Although cultivated mostly north of the latitude of Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, Mo., many varieties are grown successfully at least as far South as Wilmington, N.C., Central Alabama, and Northern Texas. In the South and in localities where hot weather comes early, the early and midseason varieties with rather open petalage and the singles are generally most satisfactory. These varieties also are fully as desirable farther north. The late sorts and those with tight buds having full petalage are at home in northern gardens where moderate temperatures and somewhat moist air bring them into bloom at their best.

Peonies grow best in full sunlight but will tolerate some shade such as in open spaces between trees and shrubbery where the sun will reach them for several hours daily. Where shade is too dense or the roots are in competition with those of trees or shrubs they produce comparatively few flowers. They may refuse to bloom at all under such handicaps though the plants may seem to be in good condition. While they appear to good advantage when planted by themselves, they also do well in association with other herbaceous plants in sunny positions. Spring-flowering bulbs may be placed near them with pleasing effects. The plants are long-lived and the clumps become quite large in time, requiring 3 or 4 feet of space for full development.

Propagation is by division of plants 3 or more years of age. The divisions usually offered by nurserymen include from 3 to 5 buds or "eyes" with a portion of the roots. These standard divisions generally are preferable to those either larger or smaller. It is better to divide than to transplant an entire old clump in the hope of getting an abundance of flowers the first season. Often some of the buds of the clump will fail to develop, and after 2 or 3 years a plant grown from a division is likely to be much stronger and more productive than a large clump that has been transplanted.

The preferred soil is deep fertile clay loam with a well-drained clay subsoil, although peonies will thrive in any good garden soil fairly well provided with moisture. Good drainage is important as the roots will rot out in locations where water stands for some time during wet periods. It is desirable to prepare the soil in advance and allow the ground to settle before the plants are set out. For most garden conditions, digging and mixing the soil to a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ or even 2 feet is recommended. For large plantings such depth would be impracticable but deep plowing and thorough working are required to give the roots the needed area for development. An application of lime such as would be suitable for garden vegetables may be desirable. If manure is used at all it is important to keep it from direct contact with the roots and crowns.

The most favorable season for transplanting is in the fall from early September through October or until the ground freezes. The divisions are set out so that the upper bud will be about 2 inches below the surface. Deep planting is to be avoided because abnormal growth starts from the crown and plants lack vigor when buds are buried several inches deep. The soil is pressed firmly around the roots and loose soil placed over the top. Each plant will need a space about 3 feet in diameter. Where alternate freezing and thawing occur a mulch 2 or 3 inches in depth will help prevent lifting and displacing the roots during the first winter. After the plants are established no mulch is needed.

Some flowers usually are produced the first spring, with an increase in numbers and quality each season for several years. The plants continue to bloom freely for many years if the conditions are good, and during all this time they require little special care. Frequent cultivation is desirable, and weeds must be prevented from gaining a foothold. In case of drought thorough watering is needed at intervals. In good soil little fertilization is necessary for normal growth. A light application in the spring of a balanced commercial fertilizer or of bonemeal and wood ashes is recommended by some successful peony growers. Concentrated plant foods must be used with great caution to avoid over-stimulation, with resultant lowered flower production. Each fall, as a precaution against harboring diseases over winter, it is advisable to remove and burn the foliage, cutting it off at the ground line with care to avoid disturbing the crown.

Each stem of most peonies normally has more than one flower bud. Removing all but the terminal bud while the buds are small increases the size of the remaining flower. This removal of lateral buds is desirable if the best double flowers are wanted for cutting. Single varieties, however, usually are more attractive with several buds on a stem. Ants often appear in numbers attracted by the sweet sap which exudes from the buds. They leave when the flower opens, doing no direct harm. If the flowers are to be cut, the best time to take them is while still in bud, when the petals show their color or begin to unfold. They open at their best indoors. Taken at this stage they can also be kept in cold storage for 1 to 3 weeks.

Occasionally peonies fail to bloom for causes not easily recognized. In such cases an investigation is needed as to the suitability of the site and conditions of growth to find out whether the roots as well as the tops appear to be healthy. Usually it is better to replant if the site is suitable rather than spend much effort in trying to save inferior plants. Failure to bloom or sparse flowering may result from one or more of the following causes: excessive shade, especially in the dry soil under trees; root competition from trees or shrubs; plants set too deep; overstimulation by fertilizers; late frosts which kill the flower buds though the leaves survive; crowded clumps transplanted without dividing them; and diseases of the roots or tops.

The American Peony Society has compiled lists of varieties with their rating of value as accorded by vote of the members throughout the country. The valuation is on a scale of 10 in which 10 represents the highest excellence or ideal, 9 shows exceedingly high quality, and 8.5 to 8 denotes high quality. Some varieties rated between 7.5 and 8 are considered good peonies. The Society, however, recommends that those rated lower than 7.5 be discarded from commercial lists since so many excellent varieties have been introduced more recently. These ratings are usually given with the names in the descriptive lists and catalogues of nursery firms. They usually afford a much better criterion of merit for selection of varieties than do the prices or possibly exaggerated praise. A new peony of only moderate quality may command a higher price, because of its scarcity, than is asked for an older variety of better quality.

(COPY)

MEYER'S PEONY GARDENS

Rt 1, Box 39-A
Homewood, Ill.